

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A method for facilitating commercial exchange of digital media comprising the steps of:

assigning a unique owner identifier to the digital media;

assigning a unique identifier to the digital media;

providing a central media database containing a list of the owner identifiers and unique digital media identifiers;

providing an exchange interface configured to facilitate an exchange of a digital media in a commercial transaction;

transferring, through said exchange interface, a payment from a buyer to a seller upon verification of an authorized sale of said digital media;

transferring, through said exchange interface, a royalty payment to an owner associated with said authorized sale of digital media; and

distributing, through said exchange interface, a copy of said digital media from said central media database to said buyer.

2. (Original) The method of Claim 1 further including the step of assigning a type-code to the digital media to identify the type of work.

3. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said authorized sale of said digital media is a sale of a physical media storing a copy of said digital media.

4. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said authorized sale of said digital media is a sale between a previous buyer of said digital media and a subsequent buyer.

5. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said authorized sale of said digital media is a sale of an authorized copy of said digital media between an authorized commercial reseller and a buyer of said digital media.

6. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said authorized sale of said digital media is a referral sale of an authorized copy of said digital media between an authorized seller and a buyer of said digital media, facilitated by an referring party; and further including the step of transferring, through said exchange interface, a referral payment to said referring party.

7. (Currently Amended) A method for facilitating commercial exchange of digital media media files accessible on a peer-to-peer network comprising the steps of:

providing a central media database containing a list of digital media master files, unique digital media file identifiers, associated owner identifiers, and associated copyright owner identifiers;

maintaining a searchable index of digital media files offered for sale by members of the peer-to-peer network;

searching said index to identify a digital media file desired for purchase by a buyer;

providing an exchange interface configured to facilitate exchange of digital media identified in said searchable index and stored in said central media database;

transferring, through said exchange interface, a payment from a buyer to a seller on said peer-to-peer network upon verification of an authorized sale of a digital media file located with said exchange interface;

transferring, through said exchange interface, a royalty payment to an owner associated with said authorized sale of digital media; and

distributing a copy of said digital media to said buyer from said central media database.

8. (New) A method for operating an online exchange system, comprising:
creating a common index of content from multiple peer-to-peer networks; and
providing an interface to said common index, said interface accessible by a standard web-browser to enable searching of said common index.

9. (New) The use of an Exchange method for the transfer or conveyance of ownership of digital media files carrying royalty payment requirements to an associated copyright or royalty owner.

10. (New) The use of an Exchange method for the control of the payment and ownership conditions for the transfer or conveyance of ownership of digital media files by a copyright or royalty owner in real time.

11. (New) The use of claim 9 wherein the Exchange method includes immobilizing a physical media corresponding to the digital media files.

12. (New) The use of claim 9 wherein the Exchange method includes providing a record of the purchase (verified ownership).

13. (New) The use of claim 9 wherein the Exchange method enables owners of digital media files (including copyright or royalty owners) to offer their digital media for sale.

14. (New) The use of claim 13 wherein said owners (including copyright and royalty owners) may optionally control conditions of resale of said digital media online.

15. (New) The use of claim 9 wherein said owners can use the digital media that they own within the conditions provided by the copyright or royalty owners.

16. (New) The use of claim 9 wherein prices for sale of said digital media can be determined by independent bids and offers as well as other criteria applied online by the copyright or royalty owner.

17. (New) The use of claim 9 wherein copyright or royalty owners receive payment on all types of transactions (trade, donation or sale) according to what they have provided online.

18. (New) The use of claim 9 wherein plural transaction configurations are available within the Exchange method.

19. (New) The use of claim 18 wherein one of the plural transaction configurations is a classical store.

20. (New) The use of claim 9 wherein the Exchange method enables multiple Exchanges to exchange information with each other for the purpose of completing transactions.